

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OES-03 NASA-01 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3338

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, AG, MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: LE MONDE ALLEGATIONS RE US MILITARY
INTERESTS

REF: (A) ALGIERS 3222 (B) STATE 260897 (C) MADRID 7631

1. EMBASSY HAS RAISED WITH LE MONDE CORRESPONDENT
HERE, AND WITH GOA, OCT. 30 LE MONDE ARTICLE WHICH
SAID THAT US HAS BASE IN CANARIES AND ANTI-MISSILE
RADAR STATIONS IN CEUTA AND MELILLA (REF A). EMBOFF
MET WITH PAUL BALTA, LE MONDE'S ALGIERS CORRESPONDENT
AND AUTHOR OF OCT. 30 ARTICLE, AND POINTED OUT ERROR
IN FACT CONCERNING SUPPOSED MILITARY FACILITIES.

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BALTA APOLOGIZED AND SAID THAT LE MONDE WOULD PRINT
RETRACTION. HE SAID HIS INFORMATION HAD COME FROM

ANTONIO CUBILLO, SEC GEN OF MOVEMENT FOR SELF-
DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE FOR CANARY ARCHIPELAGO
(MPAIAC).

2. NOV. 12 LE MONDE CARRIED "DENIAL AND PRECISION"
CONCERNING ALLEGED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN CANARIES.
DENIAL, IT SAID, PUBLISHED AT REQUEST OF AMERICAN
EMBASSY IN ALGIERS AND LE MONDE ACKNOWLEDGED OUR
DEMARCHE.

3. CITING MPAIAC AS ITS SOURCE, PIECE THEN WENT ON
TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. NASA TRACKING STATION AT MAS-PALOMAS IN
CANARIES USED TO CONTROL SPY SATELLITES SUCH AS
HS 303 A AND SAMOS IN ADDITION TO MERCURY, GEMINI
AND APOLOO PROJECTS.

B. ISLAND OF PALMAS HAS THREE ANTI-MISSILE RADAR
SYSTEMS AS WELL AS SONAR FOR OBSERVING PASSAGE OF
SUBMARINES AND SHIPS USING OIL ROUTE.

C. DURING RECENT US/SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS,
QUESTION OF LOCATING USAF UNITS AT GRENADILLA IN
SOUTHERN TENERIFE AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT SUITABLE
FOR NAVAL USE AT LANZAROTE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED.

D. CONTROL AND RADAR SYSTEMS IN DIFFERENT ISLANDS
OF CANARY ARCHIPELAGO ARE STAFFED BY PERSONS TRAINED
BY US MILITARY AND ARE LINKED TO AMERICAN BASE AT
ROTA VIA CADIZ AND KENITRA. SAME IS TRUE OF RADAR
STATIONS AT CEUTA AND MELILLA.

E. SUBMARINE CABLE LINKING LISBON TO SOUTH
AFRICA VIA TENERIFE IS USED BY NATO AND NASA.
AS RESULT OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS, ADDITIONAL
CABLE NOW LINKS TENERIFE TO US VIA RECIFE IN BRAZIL.

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4. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOOK NOTE OF OUR DENIAL OF
LE MONDE STORY, NOTING THAT, FOR ALGERIAN PUBLIC,
NASA AND MILITARY INDISTINGUISHABLE.

5. COMMENT: CUBILLO'S MPAIAC IS VIRTUALLY ONE-MAN
BAND. CUBILLO HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF AN
INSTITUTION ON ALGIERS LIBERATION MOVEMENT SCENE
AND LE MONDE SEEMS ANXIOUS TO GIVE HIM A MOMENT IN
THE SUN. PARKER

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